

**In the claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A regenerable Nickel (Ni) catalyst for a hydrocarbon reforming process, said catalyst comprising discrete Ni crystallites formed on a an alumina support element by a several incipient wetness steps process incorporating a plurality of Ni impregnation cycles, said catalyst being capable of withstanding at least 6 catalyst regenerations without significantly inhibiting it's catalytic activity in said reforming process, said Ni crystallites positioned in the inner surface of said support element, said crystallites having a crystallite characteristic dimension of between  $\pm 150$  and 1000 Å and a dispersion on said support element of no more than ~~0.2~~ 0.14 square meter of exposed nickel/ square meter of support surface.

Please cancel claims 2 to 6 inclusive

7. (Currently amended) A catalyst as defined in claim  $\pm 1$  wherein said alumina is  $\alpha$  alumina.

Please cancel claims 8 to 16 inclusive

17.( Previously Amended) A catalyst as defined in claim 7 wherein said support element has an average size is in the range of between 5 and 200 microns.

18.( Previously Amended) A catalyst as defined in claim 7 wherein said support element has an average size in the range of between 20 and 100 microns.

Please cancel claims 19 to 26 inclusive

27. (Previously Added) A catalyst as defined in claim 7 wherein said Ni crystallites are present in the amount of up to 20 wt%.

Please cancel claims 28